

The School Board Corner

By Patricia Healy, Rockhill District
May 2004

As the weather warms and we welcome Spring in all its glory, we are working hard to prepare for the Standards of Learning tests (SOLs), which are scheduled for the week of May 10-14 in our elementary (grades 3, 4, and 5) and middle schools (all grades) and from May 3 through June 8 in our high schools. I want to give special recognition and thanks to all our dedicated teachers who spend countless hours of their personal time creating study aids and working with our students. It takes effort every day at every grade to enjoy the success we have reached to date. As parents, we can help by ensuring that our children get good rest each night before the tests, have a nutritious breakfast, and are encouraged to do their best. If you have any questions about the tests your child may be taking, please do not hesitate to contact the classroom teacher or the principal.

By the time this newsletter is published, we may not yet have a budget allocation from the State or from our County government. We worked hard in March and April to make our needs known to the elected officials who decide on the amount of funds that will be allocated to Stafford County Public Schools. Because of the excellence of our present program, we currently enjoy many non-mandated programs that are not funded by the State, which cost is paid primarily with local funds. The cost to continue this quality of excellence is increasing as we add more students and build more facilities each year. It is my hope that we will never be forced to reduce the quality of education we offer our students in Stafford County Public Schools.

I want to personally thank all of our parents, employees, students, and supporters of our public education system who supported full funding of the budget requested by the School Board. I wish to recognize the important role played by the Parent-Teacher/Student Organizations/Associations in many of our schools. Your participation was a critical element in this year's budget process. Without input from the public our elected officials would be making decisions in a vacuum. As a school board member, I consider it my responsibility and privilege to be an advocate for Stafford County Public Schools. There were many, many advocates for our schools, who voiced their support most eloquently last month.

Finally, I wish everyone a safe, fun and restful summer. For those who will graduate in June, good luck in your future endeavors. For those who will be back in the Fall, we look forward to your return. Thanks to our dedicated and wonderful teachers and staff, we will be ready and waiting for you in September.

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